

**ABSTRACT**

A system for obtaining a printed copy of a copyrighted document via the Internet is provided. The copyrighted document is encrypted at a server using a particular public encryption key. The encrypted document is then transmitted to a destination printer. The destination printer includes a private encryption key which corresponds to the public encryption key. The private encryption key is unavailable outside the printer. For example, a client computer attached to the printer may not read the private encryption key. Once the encrypted document is received, the printer decrypts the copyrighted document inside the printer prior to printing in order to frustrate redistribution of the copyrighted document.